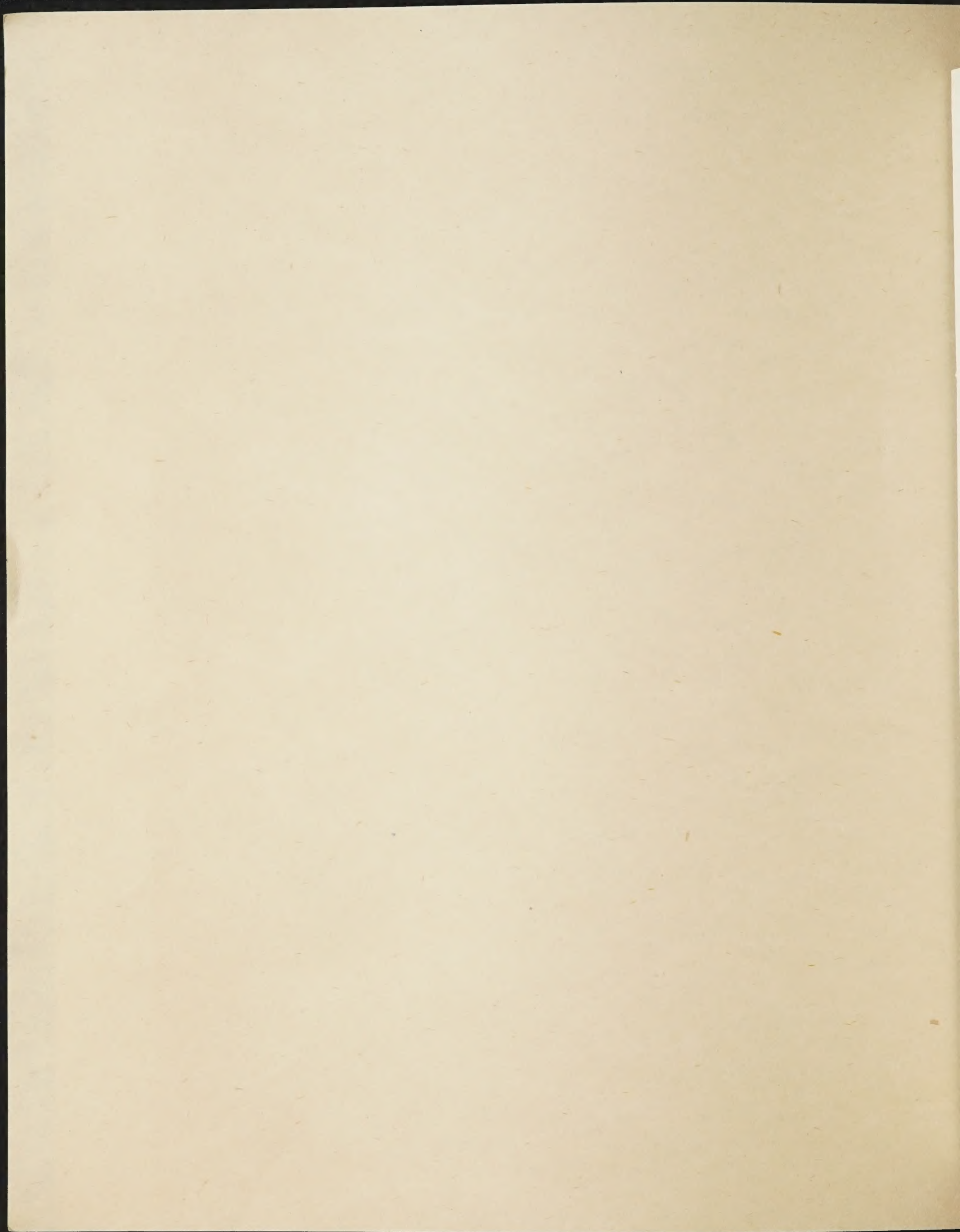


MISCELLANEOUS-4

1919 (004)



LETTER

ADDRESSED TO THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF UPSALA

BY

THE PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

April 15, 1919

To the Rector of the
University of Upsala
Sweden

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter addressed to Columbia University in the City of New York, bearing date February 1, 1919, sent in the name of the Senate of the University of Upsala.

You were good enough to transmit therewith a copy of an open letter from the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig, addressed to the Universities of Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway under date of December 23, 1918, together with a copy of a letter dated December 30, 1918, testifying that the University of Heidelberg and the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences wished to associate themselves with the University of Leipzig in forwarding the open letter just mentioned.

The open letter from the University of Leipzig complains to the universities in neutral lands of the outrageous action (*das unerhörte Vorgehen*) of the French High Command toward the German scholars and men of science in Strasbourg. It is alleged that these scholars and men of science have been compelled to leave the University of Strasbourg on twenty-four hours' notice, in many cases to the grave damage of the studies and investigations which they had under way. Such treatment is made the ground of sharp protest in the name of science, and the universities in neutral lands, to whom the letter of the University of Leipzig is addressed, are asked that the facts laid before them be spread abroad in the press and brought immediately to the attention of the universities and academies of France, England and America.

Whether or not German scholars and scientists formerly resident in Strasbourg have been harshly treated by the French High Command we do not know. We should wish to have some more convincing evidence than the mere allegation of the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig.

Meanwhile we invite attention to the fact that it is an established principle in England and the United States that anyone who comes into a court of equity seeking relief must come with clean hands. Before the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig can expect the court of public opinion to

sympathize with their allegations, the people of France, England and the United States will certainly wish to know what measure of protest, if any, the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig recorded against the cruel and inhuman treatment in 1914, by the German High Command, of the scholars associated with the University of Louvain and against the wanton and barbarous destruction of the library of that University. They will also wish to know what measure of protest, if any, the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig have recorded against any or all of the following thirty-one kinds of offense which it has been proved on indisputable evidence, gathered formally by national and international commissions, were committed by German armies and German agents and their allies in one or more of the countries invaded by them during the war whose issues are now in process of settlement:

- Massacre of civilians
- Putting to death of hostages
- Torture of civilians
- Starvation of civilians
- Rape
- Abduction of girls and women for the purpose of enforced prostitution
- Deportation of civilians
- Internment of civilians under brutal conditions
- Forced labor of civilians in connection with military operations of the enemy
- Usurpation of sovereignty during military occupation
- Compulsory enlistment as soldiers among the inhabitants of occupied territory
- Pillage
- Confiscation of property
- Exaction of illegitimate or exorbitant contributions and requisitions
- Debasement of currency
- Issue of spurious currency
- Imposition of collective penalties
- Wanton devastation and destruction of property
- Bombardment of undefended places
- Wanton destruction of religious, charitable, educational and historic buildings and monuments
- Destruction of merchant ships and passenger vessels without examination or without warning
- Destruction of fishing boats and a relief ship
- Bombardment of hospitals
- Attack on and destruction of hospital ships
- Breach of other rules relating to the Red Cross
- Use of deleterious and asphyxiating gases
- Use of exploding and expanding bullets
- Directions to give no quarter
- Ill-treatment of prisoners
- Misuse of flags of truce
- Poisoning of wells

The Rector and Senate of the ancient University of Upsala might render great service, not only to science and to scholarship, but to the cause of civilization itself, if they would bring to the attention of the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig, as well as to that of the proper authorities of the University of Heidelberg and the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences, the fact that acknowledgment of wrong-doing on the part of the German Government, the German armies and the German people, and contrition for that wrong-doing, are the first and necessary steps in the rehabilitation before the world of German scholarship and German science. It is probably within the truth to say that the universities of France, England and the United States are awaiting, with deep interest and no small measure of anxiety, some sign that German scholars and men of science realize the enormity of the offenses, public and private, that have been committed by Germans and in the name of Germany during the war now ending, and some evidence that these scholars and men of science feel sincere regret for them.

We have not forgotten the amazing prostitution of scholarship and science to national lust marked by the formal appeal to the civilized world made by German professors in September, 1914. That appeal was an unmixed mass of untruths, and the stain which it placed upon the intellectual and moral integrity of German scholars and men of science will forever remain one of the most deplorable and discouraging events of the war which German militarism and Prussian autocracy forced upon the peaceful and liberty-loving nations of the world.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER,
President of Columbia University

[Copy]

To the Columbia University in the City of New York

At the request of the Rector and Senate of the University of Leipzig, with whom the University and Academy of Sciences of Heidelberg have associated themselves, the Senate of the University of Upsala beg to present to you the enclosed copies of addresses delivered at the University and dated 23 and 30 December, 1918.

At the same time the Senate, regretting the interruption of the international connections in the field of learning caused by the war, wish to express their ardent hope that the collaboration between the scholars of the different nations may be resumed as soon as possible for the promotion of science and the benefit of mankind.

Upsala, February 1, 1919

In the name of the Senate of the University

LUDWIG STAVENORD

Rector of the University of Upsala

[AFSKRIFT]

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

Leipzig, den 23. Dezember 1918

*Offener Brief an die Universitäten der Schweiz, von Holland,
Dänemark, Schweden, Norwegen*

Die Universität Leipzig weist die Universitäten der neutralen Länder mit Nachdruck auf das unerhörte Vorgehen des französischen Oberkommandos gegen die deutschen Träger der Wissenschaft in Strassburg hin. Ist es schon unverständlich, dass deutsche Beamte und Bürger mit kürzester Frist ausgewiesen werden, so bedeutet es eine schwere private und wissenschaftliche Schädigung wenn deutsche Gelehrte und die sämtlichen deutschen Bibliothekare der Universität Strassburg binnen 24 Stunden Stadt und Land unter Zurücklassung ihrer ganzen Habe verlassen mussten. Denn damit ist der Verlust der wissenschaftlichen Arbeit oft eines arbeitsreichen Lebens verbunden, die auf keine Weise zu ersetzen ist—eine Benachteiligung der internationalen Kultur, gegen welche die gesamte Wissenschaft auch in den uns feindlichen Ländern schärfsten Protest einlegen müsste.

Wir bitten von unserem offenen Briefe Kenntnis zu nehmen, ihn in der neutralen Presse zu verbreiten und ihn abschriftlich unverzüglich den Universitäten und Akademien von Frankreich, England und Amerika zuzusenden.

Rector und Senat der Universität Leipzig

RITTER

[AFSKRIFT]

Heidelberg, den 30. Dezember 1918

Bartholomae an die Universität in Upsala

Die Universität Heidelberg / vertreten durch Professor Bartholomae / und die Heidelberger Akademie der Wissenschaften / vertreten durch Professor Bezold / schliessen sich dem Schreiben der Universität Leipzig vom 23. Dezember ds. Js. vollinhaltlich an und bitten, bei Verbreitung des Schreibens auch ihren Namen anzuführen.

C. BEZOLD